



October 21, 2005

*Re: Accrediting Commission Report
August 2005 Meeting*

Dear ACCET and Other Colleagues:

This letter and the accompanying enclosures are presented as an update on the actions undertaken by the ACCET Accrediting Commission at the recently completed meeting. A summary of all final actions, referenced by institution, a summary of statistics for all actions relative to the various classifications of review, and the policy/documentation revisions referenced herein, can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ACCET website (www.accet.org) along with this report under **Commission Report** and the **Documents and Forms** links. The following policy synopsis is offered for your reference, followed with some observations on current events and developments.

Call-For-Comment/Approval

- **Document 1 – Accreditation Plan Policies and Procedures, Eligibility Criteria #7**

In the context of the Commission's recent review of the Standards for Accreditation, the institutional eligibility criteria (#7) was determined to be an inaccurate and/or ambiguous reflection of ACCET's intent to allow an application from a stand-alone department within an institution of higher learning similar to that for corporate training departments. The proposed revision removes the limitation to IEPs and adds the requirement that the institution as a whole be accredited by a USDE recognized agency. The call-for-comment and request for approval was sent out to the membership via email on August 25, 2005.

- **Document 2 – Standards for Accreditation**

The ACCET standards, as previously reported, were reviewed and revised by a task force made up of current and past Commissioners, institutional representatives and ACCET staff, at a special meeting in July. Thereafter, the Commission reviewed, approved, and recommended a proposed draft to be sent out to the ACCET membership for a call-for-comment and request for approval, which was done via email on August 25, 2005. Depending on the results, subsequent revision and/or final approval will be sought at the membership meeting at the opening of the annual conference (October 26-28) in San Francisco or further reviewed at the December Commission meeting.

Finalized Policy Documents

- **Document 4 – Application for Accreditation**

The revision (page 6 of 11, item D) clarifies the no substantive change rule for both reaccreditation and initial accreditation as it relates to the eASER due dates. The eASER is intended to be a clear accurate picture of the institution, by necessity frozen at a point in time, and not well-served by a blurred image of untimely changes.

- **Document 19– Instructor Evaluation/Document 20 -Review of Instructional Materials and Methods**

These documents were subject to the Commission's five year review requirement and minor changes for clarity and substance were incorporated.

Current/Projected Events

- Our long standing colleague, Donna Hutchison, has resigned and taken a compliance officer position with a school that is an applicant for ACCET accreditation. After 14 years with us, she decided it was time for a new opportunity and challenge and consistent with her great regard for and commitment to ACCET, we were given almost two months notice to ease the transition. Charlie Matterson has been promoted to this position and our past experiences with him in a senior school operations capacity, as well as on the ACCET staff over the last two years, inspires the highest confidence in his capabilities and commitment. In addition, Scott Faulstick has been promoted to Senior Accreditation Coordinator, as his six year tenure with ACCET in a variety of functions has proven his good judgment, insights, and contributions to be the inspiration for higher level responsibilities and recognition.
- The ACCET annual Conference in San Francisco next week has the highest number of registrations since splitting off from the multi-agency, CRNAA sponsored conferences in 1991. Many fine sessions and speakers are planned and we hope to meet, greet, and converse with as many of our ACCET colleagues as possible over the course of that busy week.

Finally, with an eye toward the more expansive report to be provided at our annual Business Meeting, on October 26th, let me just note in closing the recent indicators that the Higher Education Act (HEA) is being fast tracked and is expected to pass without major amendments to the largely compatible Senate/House versions. There is much well-reasoned, if not necessarily great, change in the current

bills, and a few that will likely tempt some toward the slippery slope at the edges of fraud and abuse. We will just keep our eyes open and focused on the common sense version of achievement, namely, the hard work of shaping people's lives with quality education and training that delivers on the promise. Hope to see you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Williams

Roger J. Williams
Executive Director